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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/763,318	01/26/2004	Tomohide Kasame	118451	6472
25944	7590	03/24/2006		EXAMINER
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC				SHIN, CHRISTOPHER B
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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2182	

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/763,318	KASAME ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Christopher B. Shin	2182

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4,9-10 & 21-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 5-8 and 11-20 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 21 July 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07062004</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 22, 25 & 26:

Line 8, the “processed signal” lacks proper and clear antecedent basis, i.e., does the processed signal refers to the processed input signal?

Lines 1-11, it is unclear, from the context of the claim, as to how the “outputting a control signal” (preamble limitation) is supported by the body of the claim. I.e., the preamble is not supported by the body of the claim in terms of outputting the control signal.

Claim 22:

Line 9, the intended meaning of “as the control signal” is unclear in terms of supporting an action/operation of controlling something. The claim does not support or utilize any type of controlling by the “control signal”

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-4, 9-10 & 21-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mizutani et al. (US 2004/0076154).

a. As for claims 1-4 & 9-10, the Mizutani reference teaches, in figures 1 and 23 and the respective descriptive sections, the basic claimed limitations as follows:

<u>Claims 1-4 & 9-10</u>	<u>Mizutani et al (figures 1 & 23)</u>
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- An input terminal to which the input signal is input
 - Figure 1 & 23, (4-1...4-n)
- An operation processing section which executes the operation processing
 - Figure 1 & 23, (2)
- An input/output processing circuit which execute predetermined processing for the input signal and supplies the processed signal to the operation processing section
 - Figure 1 & 23, (10)
- A processing switch section which switches the predetermined processing of the input processing circuit
 - Figure 1 & 23, (1, 11)
- 2. wherein the processing switch section stores processing,
 - Figure 1 & 23, (11)
- which the input processing circuit is able to execute, as input processing information and switches the processing of the input processing circuit based on the input processing information
 - figure 1 & 23, (10)

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- 3. wherein the switch section switches the processing of the input processing of the input processing circuit based on an operation result output by the operation processing section
 - [0058], last three lines, figure 1, (2)
- 4. wherein the processing switch section switches the processing of the input processing circuit in a time-sharing manner
 - feature of figure 1
- 9. wherein the input terminal is a plurality of input terminals
 - figure 1 & 23, (4-1...4-n)
- the input processing circuit switches a connection relationship between the plurality of input terminals and the operation processing section
 - figure 1 & 23, (1, 10, 11)
- 10. wherein the input processing circuit executes separate processing for input signals input from the plurality of input terminals
 - figure 1 & 23 (1, 10, 11)

b. Since the claimed limitations read on the teachings of the Mizutani

reference, the claimed invention is anticipated by the Mizutani reference.

c. As for claims 21, 22-24, 25 & 26, due to the similarities between the above-discussed claims and the claims 21, 2-24, 25 & 26, respectively, the teachings of the above-discussed claims 1-4, 9-10 are similarly applied.

d. Examiner also notes and believes that the respective claims 21, 22-24, 25 & 26 recite the same/single invention as the claims 1-4 & 9-10. If the applicant disagrees, the applicant should let the examiner so that the examiner can issue a restriction requirement.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 5-8 and 11-20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher B. Shin whose telephone number is 571-272-4159. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-5:00 M,Tu,Th,F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Huynh can be reached on 571-272-4147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Christopher Shin
Primary Examiner
Of 2182

March 9, 2006
cbs

